

SENATE BILL 763

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2003 Regular Session
3r2669
CF HB 899

By: **Senator Hooper**

Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session

Introduced and read first time: March 6, 2003

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Telephone Companies - Intracounty and Adjacent Local Calling**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to classify as toll-free
4 certain calls made within a county or within a certain distance from a county;
5 prohibiting a local exchange telephone service provider from separately billing
6 certain calls; providing for the application and construction of this Act; providing
7 for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to local calling areas and
8 rates.

9 BY adding to

10 Article - Public Utility Companies
11 Section 4-301.1
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1998 Volume and 2002 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - Public Utility Companies**

17 4-301.1.

18 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A PERSON WHO PROVIDES TELEPHONE
19 SERVICE IN THE STATE, INCLUDING A TELEPHONE COMPANY, UNLESS FEDERAL LAW
20 PROHIBITS THE PERSON FROM PROVIDING COUNTYWIDE SERVICE IN A PARTICULAR
21 COUNTY.

22 (B) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL CLASSIFY AS TOLL-FREE ANY TELEPHONE
23 CALL MADE:

24 (I) BETWEEN ANY TWO POINTS WITHIN A SINGLE COUNTY; OR

25 (II) BETWEEN A POINT IN ONE COUNTY AND ANOTHER POINT
26 WITHIN 40 MILES OF THAT COUNTY.

1 (2) A LOCAL EXCHANGE TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDER MAY NOT BILL
2 ANY TELEPHONE CALL THAT IS TOLL-FREE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
3 SUBSECTION SEPARATELY FROM THE MONTHLY LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE
4 CHARGE FOR THE LINE FROM WHICH THE CALL IS MADE.

5 (C) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT, TO INCREASE RATES
6 FOR, OR OTHERWISE TO INTERFERE WITH TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDED TO
7 CUSTOMERS UNDER A FOREIGN EXCHANGE TELEPHONE LINE TARIFF OR PROGRAM.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 January 1, 2004.